

~~To: Karen Olshadance@proaxis.com (Donald Ginn & Son, Inc.)~~

~~From: Karen Olshadance@proaxis.com~~

Subject: Re: Food Irradiation Action Alert - 5/18

Cc:

Bcc:

Attached:

2091 '99 MAY 18 AM 11:35

~~To: Karen Olshadance@proaxis.com (Donald Ginn & Son, Inc.)~~

~~From: Karen Olshadance@proaxis.com~~

Subject: Re: Food Irradiation Action Alert - 5/18

Cc:

Bcc:

Attached:

>Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)

>Food and Drug Administration

>5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061

>Rockville, MD 20852

>

>>Re: Docket No. 98N-1038, Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and

>Handling of Food

>

>To whom it may concern:

>>The FDA should retain the current labeling law, the current terminology of

>"treated with irradiation" or "treated with irradiation," and the use of

>the radura symbol on all irradiated foods. The label should be large

>enough to be readily visible to the consumer and should be placed on the

>front of the package. The label contains important information regarding

>the processing of the contents and therefore deserves a prominent place on

>the packaging. For unpackaged whole foods such produce, this information

>should be clearly displayed on a poster in plain view and adjacent to where

>the product is displayed for sale.

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>In it's initial petition, the FDA concluded that irradiation was a

>"material fact" about the processing of food and therefore should be

>disclosed. The material fact remains, therefore the labeling requirement

>should remain. Irradiation alters the nutrients in food, causes changes in

>sensory and storage characteristics, and causes chemical changes in food

>that may be hazardous. Consumers have a right to know if this process has

>been used on their food.

>

>The requirement of irradiation exposure should not expire. If some

>consumers become familiar with the radura, there will always be new

>consumers, young people, immigrants, entering the marketplace who will not

>be. Also, because of the newness of the technology and the need to assess

>the public health effects of ingesting irradiated foods, I believe the

>FDA's labeling requirements should not be permitted to expire.

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>I urge you to place the comments received on the Internet so that the

98N-1038

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...There will be new exceptions to the 10% premature distribution penalty for IRA distributions after '96 that are used for medical expenses and medical insurance when medical expenses and insurance costs exceed 7 1/2% of adjusted gross income. There is also an exemption to the 10% penalty for those persons who qualify for unemployment for 12 weeks and withdraw amounts from their IRA not in excess of the amount of medical insurance paid by the individual for himself, his spouse and dependents.

...Favorable income and gift tax breaks are now in effect for state tuition savings plans that can help families accumulate larger college funds.

...The luxury auto excise tax has been decreased, with more cutbacks scheduled for future years. The tax was 10% of the cost of an auto above \$34,000. It dropped to 9% on August 28, 1996, and will decrease to 8% in '97.

...There are new "portability" requirements for group health plans, with new stringent limits on pre-existing condition exclusions, guaranteed renewability, and a penalty tax for noncompliance, enforceable after 1998.

There are also many favorable tax changes for businesses:

...The amount of equipment a small business can expense in the year of purchase will gradually increase from the current \$17,500 to \$25,000. For '97 tax years, for example, \$18,000 can be expensed.

...Self-employed persons and greater than 2% shareholders of S - corporations will get larger health insurance deductions: 40% of their costs will be deductible next year (up from 30% this year), with increases up to 80% deductibility over nine years.

...There are major liberalizations for S corporations. Generally for tax years after '96, they can have 75 shareholders instead of only 35; more types of trusts will be able to own S corporation stock, making for easier financial and estate planning; and S corps will be permitted to have subsidiaries. There are also improved prospects of distributing pre-'83 accumulated earnings on a favorable basis. Most importantly for some, invalid S elections can be corrected retroactively, creating a possible tax refund opportunity. Companies that gave up S status in a year beginning before '97 can reelect it and take advantage of the new rules, without having to wait the usual 5 years to re-elect.

...For businesses that have classified workers as independent contractors, there generally is more protection against IRS challenge, with one tougher rule for audits that begin after '96.

...There's now a new 35% "work opportunity tax credit" for businesses that hire certain disadvantaged workers, and comply with the certification process.

...For the many businesses concerned about having to deposit payroll, excise, and corporate estimated taxes electronically, there has been a 6 month delay in this requirement until July 1, 1997.

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so that the

>public can be informed about who is participating in this comment process.

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>>Sincerely,

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>*Karen Olch

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>cc: Representative Darlene Hooley

> Senator Gordon Smith

> Senator Ron Wyden

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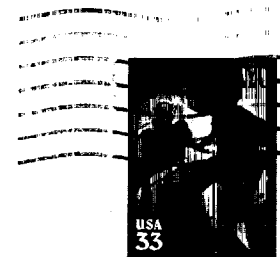
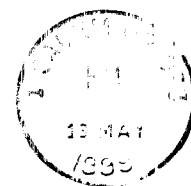
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